United Nations S/2002/552

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 14 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, on 8 May 2002, at 1740 hours, two Iraqi armed launches embarked on an act of piracy against an Iranian commercial launch at the entrance to the Arvand River (Shatt Al-Arab). Upon being asked for help, an Iranian naval patrol approached the Iranian launch and two unarmed Iranian patrols boarded it with a view to settling the matter peacefully. The Iraqi forces, seizing the opportunity, fired on them, killing one, First Naval Warrant Officer Abazar Gholami, and injuring the other, Second Naval Warrant Officer Jahangir Fatahi.

While strongly protesting against the above-mentioned act of hostility and stressing that such hostile acts create tension and jeopardize the safety and security of navigation in the region, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expects the Government of the Republic of Iraq to understand the ongoing situation in the region and prevent a recurrence of such incidents in the future. It is obvious that the responsibility for the consequences of such acts, including compensation for the damage caused, falls to the Iraqi Government.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad Hosseinian**
Ambassador

02-38900 (E) 200502